

THE MORNING NEWS

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Maduro agrees to negotiations in protest-hit Venezuela

CARACAS (AFP) - President Nicolas Maduro agreed to meet with a Venezuelan opposition delegation today, after a fresh push from top diplomats from across South America.

In just over two months, 39 people have died in clashes between security forces and protesters angered by soaring crime, high infla-

tion and shortages demonstrators blame on Maduro's elected, heavily state-led socialist government.

One problem is that only a small part of those opposing Maduro's government and policies have so far agreed to talk. University students have led protests, and organized political foes include both moderate and radical wings.



BEIJING : Chinese relatives of passengers on the missing Malaysia Airlines flight MH370 take part in a prayer service at the Metro Park Hotel in Beijing on April 8, 2014, one month after the disappearance of the jetliner. The hunt for physical evidence that the Malaysia Airlines jet crashed in the Indian Ocean more than three weeks ago has turned up nothing, despite a massive operation involving seven countries and repeated sightings of

Bob Geldof 'beyond pain' at death of daughter Peaches

LONDON (AFP) - Live Aid founder Bob Geldof said his family was "beyond pain" at the death of his socialite daughter Peaches yesterday at the age of 25.

Police were called to her secluded home outside Wrotham in Kent, southeast England, but she was pronounced dead at the scene.

Her death was being treated as "unexplained and sudden", police said.

Peaches, a mother of two young sons herself, was just 11 when her mother, television presenter Paula Yates, died of a heroin overdose aged 41 in 2000.

In her last Twitter message to her 190,000 followers on

Sunday, Peaches posted a photograph of her as a baby being held by her mother, with the words, "Me and my mum."

Kent police said in a statement: "At this stage, the death is being treated as an unexplained and sudden death. Officers are working to establish the circumstances around the death."

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Barbara Walters to retire
May 16 *pg 7*

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Tourism was responsible for Aruba's economic growth



Ben Marapin

ORANJESTAD -- Recognized Aruban Economist Ben Marapin recently commented on the influence that tourism had on the growth of Aruba's economy during 2013 as well as on what the future holds for Aruba.

Marapin says that from an analysis of the data we can conclude that tourism carried the economy in 2013 in the sense that if tourism was not positive as it was, the economy could have fallen in 2013.

Hence, according to Marapin... "this is a cardinal point that we must take into account: the economy in great measure was carried by tourism."

With respect to the future, Marapin believes that there is a great challenge ahead. He indicated that IMF reported that because of the growth of tourism, we are at the top. If you grow this much it becomes more difficult to grow any more or to continue gro-

wing in the sense of quantity.

With respect to the emphasis on San Nicolas, which is to make it the second tourism capital of Aruba with an emphasis on the cultural aspect, Marapin believes that something cultural in San Nicolas will diversify and make tourism more stable.

According to the Economist, one cardinal point that will help elevate the quality of tourists - bring tourists with more money - is for example the Ritz Carlton and the opening soon of Hard Rock Hotel. The direct impact is there, but indirectly also. Having a destination with a Ritz Carlton, a Hyatt and soon a Hard Rock Hotel, will automatically make us a more popular destination. Should we become even more popular, we can get a better price for our products.

Regarding more growth, Ben Marapin is of the opinion that IMF overlooked the fact that you can switch markets that are not yet developed that can generate tourists who spend a lot. He believes that Brazil is one very important market, which Aruba is working on very diligently.

He says: "I am confident that slowly but surely we will succeed in making it a pillar in our tourism completely different from the US, Europe and Venezuela. Brazil will contribute to increasing the quality of our tourism and in making it more stable."

Kia Motors posts 7.1% global sales growth in March

- 262,016 Kia vehicles sold globally in March for 7.1% year-on-year gain
- March sales in China, North America, Europe and General Markets post year-on-year sales growth of 14.2%, 10.3%, 6.7% and 3.7%, respectively
- Kia's bestselling model in overseas markets for month of March was B-segment Rio (K2) with 46,894 units sold

SEOUL — Kia Motors Corporation announced today its global sales figures (export sales, domestic sales and sales from overseas plants) for passenger cars, recreational vehicles (RVs) and commercial vehicles for March 2014, recording a total of 262,016 units sold. This figure represents a 7.1% year-on-year increase.

In March, Kia posted year-on-year sales increases in China, North America, Europe* and General Markets* of 14.2% (55,208 units sold), 10.3% (60,658 units sold), 6.7% (61,487 units sold) and 3.7% (45,658 units sold), respectively.

Cumulatively, through the first three months of 2014, Kia's global sales have increased by 5.2% year-on-year



Kia's bestselling model in overseas markets for the month of March was the B-segment Rio (known as 'K2' in China) with 46,894 units sold. The Sportage compact CUV was the second best seller with 38,319 units delivered, while the C-segment

said, "Bolstered by the highest level of monthly exports from Korea in company history last month of 116,305 units, we are excited to end the first quarter of 2014 with a healthy rise in global sales compared to the same period of last year."

Top 5 Selling Cars Overseas

Rank	Model	March 2014 Sales Units	Year To Date	Model	Year to Date Sales Units
1	Rio/K2	46,894		Rio/K2	118,774
2	Sportage	38,319		Cerato/Forte/K3	104,008
3	Cerato/Forte/K3	35,578		Sportage	102,718
4	Optima	25,295		Optima	61,785
5	Soul	17,788		Sorento	44,820

to reach 687,225 units. China, North America, Europe* and General Markets have experienced cumulative gains to date in 2014 of 13.0% (163,358 units sold), 4.6% (147,156 units sold), 4.2% (141,255 units sold) and 2.9% (127,451 units sold), respectively.

Cerato (known as 'Forte' or 'K3' in some markets), Optima D-segment sedan and Soul urban crossover followed with 35,578, 25,295 and 17,788 units sold, respectively.

Tae-Hyun (Thomas) Oh, Executive Vice President and COO of Kia Motors Corp.,

And the popularity of our recently launched second generation Soul urban crossover vehicle is clearly picking up momentum, having re-entered the ranks of our top five selling overseas models in March for the first time since September 2011."

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Arkefly to increase flights by 10% to Aruba as of July



ORANJESTAD -- During his recent trip to Holland, Minister of Tourism, Otmar Oduber, met with Manfred Lahey, Manager Product Long Haul of TUI Nederland.

In this encounter, the Minister was informed that the Dream liner (new aircraft) will begin flying to Aruba in July this year. This aircraft

has a seating capacity of 307, which is an extra 10% in seats. They also intend to reintroduce the "Star Class" (Business class) option.

This is a positive development for Aruba as this new class will focus on the strategy of tourists of a higher quality.

As the biggest partner in Holland, TUI is willing to co-

operate and support this new direction Aruba is taking, that is to focus on quality tourists. Along with their own airline Arkefly, TUI is also one of KLM's biggest clients and they sell Aruba via their Holland International brand.

Not too long ago, TUI merged with Jetair (TUI Belgium). Together they have a fleet of 32 aircrafts. This gives them more flexibility to offer better service. The merge has also given them the opportunity to operate more efficiently and to reduce operational costs.

For Aruba, one of the many benefits is that they can sell Belgium along with Holland. Together they represent a market of 24 million people.

For this year, ATA and TUI are executing a marketing plan together. This has contributed to the growth of Aruba's tourism from Holland.

According to Oduber, there is a strong partnership with Arkefly and that Aruba is very pleased with the relationship which he says can only get better.

ISA Elementary students donate to the Red Cross



ORANJESTAD -- On Friday, March 4, representatives of the Elementary Student Council of the International School of Aruba (ISA) visited the Red Cross Headquarters in Oranjestad to do their part for the "Help us Help" Program. The younger students, assisted by others from middle and high-school council, collected food, toiletries and household items to be donated to the Red Cross.

During several ISA family events in March, the students successfully raised awareness for the project. Boxes full of basic necessities, food, treats and clothing were collected and handed over. The goods are part of an Easter surprise for 200 needy families on Aruba who will receive the holiday baskets.

The Red Cross could still use more items for the program, and donations for



these Easter baskets can also be done directly to them until April 11th. Their headquarters are situated in Dakota, on the eastern outskirts of Oranjestad, on the Pedro Gallegostraat 14, next to the SAC offices. Hours for inquiries and receiving donations are Monday to Friday between 8am-4pm.

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Zwarte Piet court case set for May 22

AMSTERDAM -- A judge in Amsterdam will consider claims that Zwarte Piet is a racist stereotype and disrespectful towards people of African origin at a special court hearing on May 22.

The case - which will look at the legal merits of the claim - is a follow-on from legal action started by opponents of the Zwarte Piet character last year.

A group of activists went



to court in Amsterdam asking for a ban

on Zwarte Piets in the traditional Sinterklaas parade but the judge ruled against them.

Legal advisor Frank King said it is important that the judge looks at both sides of the argument so that everyone knows where they stand.

According to website ThePostOnline.nl, the anti-Zwarte Piet campaigners are appealing for donors to fund the legal action

Cas Animal Cont'd

Meet Duster: Her bags are packed and she's ready to go to a new home in the U.S.

ORANJESTAD -- The Cas Animal Foundation of Aruba is dedicated to rescuing abandoned and abused dogs off island streets, ideally to be placed in a good home. No matter how badly injured or weakened by disease, Cas Animal founder, Kirsten Arndt, has discovered hundreds of times over that with proper medical care, they can be rehabilitated to be a wonderful friend to a loving person.

Often, their afflictions are only superficial, but rendering them unattractive, which is no reason, in Kirsten's opinion, to deprive them of a happy life and the chance to be a loyal, loving companion. Kirsten also maintains an animal ambulance, and can be contacted to report a dog in distress at any time.

A driving goal, at present, is to build Aruba's first no-kill animal shelter, but the primary purpose of the foundation, aside from providing a home for the unwanted, is to place the rescued dogs in loving homes. For the last six



months Cas Animal has been experiencing exceptional success along this line.

Kirsten's efforts are not limited only dogs, and she tries to use her network to help animal lovers of all stripe when in need.

Presently, Marilyn and Jerome Schaum have a problem, and hopefully, someone can come to their aid. The couple have a home on Aruba where they will winter, and last year, they adopted a stray cat who captured their hearts and named her Duster. Unfortunately, Jerome is a pilot for Southwest Airlines, which

has a no pet travel policy, as does the airline they purchased which flies to Aruba, Trans Air.

"It absolutely broke our hearts to leave Duster back on Aruba last year," confessed Marilyn, "we just can't do it again. We have to find some way to get her back to the States with us, and we hope someone can help transport, as we have heard Cas Animal has managed with a number of Aruban dogs."

Now the call is out, if anyone is traveling with any other airline on Tuesday March 15, when Marilyn departs, all expenses will be paid by the Schaums to have them transport Duster. Since Jerome is a pilot, they can arrange to be at Norfolk, Baltimore, Boston or New York to retrieve their cat. A special carrier will be provided, they only need someone to add her on to their party.

Anyone interested in transporting Duster back to her loving parents should all Kirsten at 742-8732, and she will handle everything, meeting you at the airport with the cat. Readers can also contact Marilyn on Aruba at 740-2640. Any readers who have similarly been smitten by one of Aruba's sweet cunucu dogs in need of a good home will find the foundation ready to help you through the process of acquiring the papers and a carrier needed to take one home. As this story demonstrates, this is done regularly and many happy owners find great pleasure in being reminded every day of their time in Aruba by a loving new companion.



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Caribbean region high risk area for insect-borne diseases



YESTERDAY (Apr. 7) was World Health Day and renowned health organisations, including the Pan American Health Organisation (PAHO) and the World Health Organisation (WHO), are focusing on vector-borne diseases within the Americas, the Caribbean region and the Western Hemisphere.

According to PAHO, roughly 50 percent of people living in the Western Hemisphere are at risk of one or more diseases carried by mosquitoes, ticks, flies and other vectors, including West Nile Virus, dengue, malaria and, most recently, chikungunya.

In a "call to action" for World Health Day 2014, top health experts from North and South America and the Caribbean are urging greater efforts by governments, communities and individuals to control the spread of these and other vector-borne diseases.

"Our region has achieved many successes in controlling vector-borne diseases," said the Director of the PAHO/WHO, Dr. Carissa F. Etienne. "However, this success is being threatened by the expansion of mosquitoes and other vectors into new habitats and by the emergence of insecticide and drug resistance. PAHO and its partners are today calling for stepped-up action in the fight against vector-borne diseases in the Americas."

However, Director of the

Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Tom Frieden called for greater collaborative effort in finding new diseases and treatment for such in an effective manner.

"We as a world are in some ways more vulnerable than ever...and that means that we as a world need to collaborate more effectively than ever so we can build the capacity to find new diseases, outbreaks and threats wherever they emerge promptly, and respond effectively."

According to PAHO, the latest vector-borne disease to establish itself in the region is the chikungunya virus, which was first reportedly found in St. Maarten/St. Martin in December with two cases. However, by the end of March 2014, more than 3 000 cases have been confirmed in 10 Caribbean countries.

Chikungunya does not often result in death, but the joint pains and stiffness may last for months and even years. Governments and communities should focus their attention on prevention and control efforts on reducing the density of mosquito populations.

Reiterating her organisations' call to action, Dr. Etienne said that in addition to governments, action should be taken by communities, individuals and donors toward further progress and to face future threats from vector-borne diseases.

ODEA has to define content of nursing profession



ORANJESTAD -- Despite the contribution that the Minister will make, Minister Schwengle of Public Health indicated that it is ODEA's responsibility to define the content of the nursing profession for the future.

Last Sunday Minister Dr. Alex Schwengle participated in a symposium organized by the Association of Nurses, ODEA. In the symposium they discussed a definition of the "nurse of the future."

The Minister, who has Public Health under his watch, commented: "This is surely something for me and for the government, and very important because it is not the government to do the defining. Instead, it is new deve-

lopments with regards to the nursing profession that will help define the profession"

He indicated that he hopes that all persons working as nurses on Aruba are members of the association. This is because it is this organization that works on the norms, content and quality of this profession.

According to the Minister, he can give his contribution to the discussion as well as the government's point of view. However, he claims that it is the professionals working in the field who must sit together and decide what they want to achieve in terms of quality and content of the profession for the future.

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Loyal visitors honored at the Marriott Surf Club



Recently, the Aruba Tourism Authority honored a group of loyal and friendly Visitors of Aruba, at the Marriott Surf Club as Distinguished Visitors of Aruba. The honorees were Mr. Dave and Mrs. Sherrill Hamman from Fortwayne Indiana, and Mr. Mark and Mrs. Sheila Davidson from Ankeny FA. The certificates were presented to them by Mr. Ernest Giel representing the Aruba Tourism Authority in presence of Hamman family members, Ms. Jenny Boekhoudt and Mr. Joop Bangma GM from the Marriott Surf Club.



NEUQUEN : Handout picture released by Telam shows a road covered by water due to the rain in Neuquen, Argentina, on April 7, 2014. About 2000 people had to be evacuated in the Argentine provinces of Neuquen (southwest), Catamarca (northwest), Santiago del estero (center) and Cordoba (center) due to the floods caused by heavy rain, official sources said. (AFP PHOTO)

US sends warship to Black Sea amid the Ukraine crisis

WASHINGTON (AFP) - The United States is sending a guided missile destroyer to the Black Sea in order to reassure European allies in the region following Russia's annexation of Crimea, sources confirmed yesterday.

"We have decided to send a ship into the Black Sea. We expect it will arrive there within a week," said Pentagon spokesman colonel Steven Warren, without disclosing the name or type of the vessel citing "operational security."

A Department of Defense official confirmed to AFP the warship being sent to the region was the USS Donald Cook, a guided missile destroyer.

The boat was recently upgraded to make it capable of firing SM-3 missiles, allow-

ing the ship to function as part of the Aegis Ballistic Missile Defense System.

The boat has been deployed at the Spanish naval base in Rota in order to serve as part of the proposed NATO missile shield.

NATO insists the missile shield is a purely defensive system designed to counter potential missile threats from nations such as Iran. However it has long been a source of tension between NATO and Russia, which sees the project as a threat to its own security.

Warren insisted the deployment of the Donald Cook was meant only to reassure regional allies.

None of the planned exercises would take place in Ukrainian ports, according to Warren.

18 dead in weekend violence in northern Mexico

MEXICO CITY (AFP) - A series of gunfights left 18 people dead over the weekend in the northern Mexican state of Tamaulipas, which borders the United States and has endured years of drug violence.

Twelve men and two women were killed Sunday in shootings between criminal groups in the towns of Tampico and Madero, on the Gulf of Mexico coast, according to the Tamaulipas Coordination Group, which includes federal and state security forces.

The day of bloodshed came one day after a gun bat-

tle between soldiers and suspected criminals in the town of Miguel Aleman, which lies at the border with Texas.

Four armed civilians were killed in a skirmish after they opened fire on a hotel, the state prosecutor's office said.

Tamaulipas has been the scene of a turf war between the Zetas and Gulf cartels, former allies that have battled for control of lucrative drug trafficking routes to the United States since they split up in 2010.

Some 80,000 people have been killed in drug violence in Mexico since 2006.

Report: US deports illegal immigrants for minor offenses

NEW YORK (AFP) - The United States is mostly deporting undocumented immigrants who have committed only minor offenses or have no criminal record, despite President Barack Obama's promises to the contrary, the New York Times reported yesterday.

The newspaper said it found that only 20 percent of the two million people deported since Obama took office in January 2009 were involved in major crimes like drug trafficking.

Obama, whose quest for comprehensive immigration reform has run aground in the Congress, has assured Hispanics that his government was going after "criminals, gang bangers, people who are hurting the community, not after students, not after folks who are here just because they're trying to figure out how to feed their families."

But the Times said its analysis of records of more than 3.2 million deportation cases over the past decade

showed that deportations actually increased under Obama. Moreover, two thirds "involve people who had committed minor infractions, including traffic violations, or had no criminal records at all," it said.

It found that deportations of people who only had traffic violations quadrupled in Obama's first five years in office, over George W. Bush's last five years as president -- 193,000 over 43,000.

The Times also discovered that in 2013 immigration charges were filed in 90 percent of deportation cases involving people with no prior criminal records.

For those deportees, it means they face up to a year in prison if they return to the United States within five years.

Faced with growing criticism, Obama last month announced a review of his administration's deportation policies to see if there was a "more human" approach.

He blamed Congress for the high number of deporta-

tions, claiming he had no option but to apply the law as long as the legislature failed to approve comprehensive immigration reform.

Immigration officials set a goal of 400,000 deportations a year -- a number that was scrawled on a whiteboard at their Washington headquarters. The agency deployed more agents to the border, according to several former immigration officials, where finding and removing illegal immigrants is legally and politically easier.

The US Senate last year approved an ambitious reform bill that offers a path to citizenship for 11 million undocumented immigrants.

The bill also provides for strengthened border controls and a complete overhaul of the US system for issuing visas, among other initiatives.

But the bill is stalled in the House of Representatives, and analysts agree that it is unlikely to come to a vote before mid-term elections in November.

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US television icon Barbara Walters to retire May 16

NEW YORK (AFP) - Trailblazing US television journalist Barbara Walters, famed for her political and celebrity interviews in a career spanning more than half a century, is to retire next month, the ABC network confirmed Monday.

Walters, 84, who had already confirmed she would retire in 2014, will bring the curtain down on 53 years of broadcasting when she co-hosts her chat show "The View" for the last time on May 16.

"In this business there are legends, there are icons, and then there is Barbara Walters," Robert A. Iger, chairman and chief executive of The Walt Disney Company said.

Walters joined ABC in 1976, becoming the first female anchor of an evening news program.

ABC said Monday that its New York headquarters would be renamed in her honor to reflect her pioneering career.

A two-hour special charting her career is to be screened by ABC on the night she steps down.

Walters began her career in 1961 at NBC's breakfast news and entertainment show "Today," making a household name for herself before her groundbreaking move to ABC.

In 1997, she launched "The View," a daytime talk show pitched at women of diverse backgrounds featuring an all-female panel discussing issues of the day.

Such is its reach that it is a must-visit stop for US presidential candidates. Over the years Walters has interviewed leaders like Cuba's Fidel Castro, Egypt's Anwar Sadat and Israel's Menachem Begin (side-by-side for the first time) and every US president and first lady since Richard Nixon.

She also made her name interviewing a raft of Hollywood celebrities such as Michael Jackson, Tom Cruise, Angelina Jolie and Justin Bieber.

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Vatican voices shock over Dutch priest's killing

VATICAN CITY (AFP) - The Vatican on Monday voiced outrage over the killing of Dutch priest Frans van der Lugt in Syria's central city of Homs, saying he had been "a man of peace".

"According to his companions, he was taken away by two gunmen who beat him and then killed him with two shots to the head," Vatican spokesman Federico Lombardi said.

"This is the death of a man of peace, who showed great courage in remaining

loyal to the Syrian people despite an extremely risky and difficult situation," he said.

Van der Lugt spent nearly five decades in Syria, and told AFP in February that he considered the country to be his home.

He gained renown for insisting on staying on in besieged Homs despite daily shelling and dwindling supplies.

"In this moment of great pain, we also express our great pride and gratitude at

having had a brother who was so close to the suffering," Lombardi said.

The siege and shelling whittled away the Old City's population, including a Christian community that shrunk from tens of thousands to just 66, according to the Dutch priest.

Father Frans arrived in Syria in 1966 after spending two years in Lebanon studying Arabic.

He lived in a Jesuit monastery, where he ministered remaining Christians

and tried to help poor families -- Muslims and Christians alike.

Dutch Foreign Affairs Minister Frans Timmermans also mourned the priest on his Facebook page.

"The man that's brought nothing but good in Homs, who became a Syrian among Syrians and refused to leave his people in the lurch, even when things became life-threatening, has been murdered in a cowardly manner," he said.

Guinea raises Ebola death toll to 95

CONAKRY (AFP) - Guinea's government raised the death toll in the Ebola epidemic raging through its southern forests and capital to 95 on Monday.

The health ministry added nine deaths to the toll of 86 given before the weekend, saying that 52 cases had been confirmed in laboratories to be the killer tropical virus.

A number of patients have been discharged from Ebola treatment centres after beating the virus, however, medical charity Doctors Without Borders, which goes by its French initials MSF, said in a statement.

Various studies -- including a paper published in the New England Journal of Medicine last year -- have demonstrated some immunity in survivors from the particular strain to which they were exposed, but life-long immunity has not been demonstrated.

MSF said it was working with local communities to ensure that discharged patients who have beaten the virus can return home safely, and that everyone understands they are no longer contagious.

MSF has some 60 international staff working in Guinea, and has flown in more than 40 tons of supplies to tackle the epidemic.

Ebola leads to haemorrhagic fever, which causes muscle pain, weakness, vomiting, diarrhoea and, in severe cases, organ failure and unstoppable bleeding.

The tropical virus can be transmitted to humans from wild animals, and between humans through direct contact with another's blood, faeces or sweat.

Sexual contact, or the unprotected handling of contaminated corpses, can also lead to infection.

Mali has become the latest of Guinea's neighbours to announce suspected cases of Ebola, saying on Thursday that three victims had been placed in isolation while test samples were sent to the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

With Liberia and Sierra Leone also reporting suspected cases, MSF has described the outbreak as an "unprecedented epidemic" and warned the unusual geographical spread of cases complicates the task of containing it "enormously".

Gene clue opens paths to treat child brain cancer

PARIS (AFP) - Genetic mutations found in brain tumours in children have opened up intriguing avenues to tackle this lethal form of cancer, researchers said on Sunday.

Investigators found telltale mutations in a gene called ACVR1, which appears to play a role in a currently in-

curable form of childhood brain cancer called diffuse intrinsic pontine glioma, or DIPG.

The mutations were found in 20 to 33 percent of DIPG biopsies in three different studies published in the journal Nature Genetics.

DIPG is the most aggressive brain tumour in children.

It develops in the brain

stem, which is the seat of basic body functions that keep people alive, which means that it cannot be removed safely by surgery.

It is the first time that ACVR1 has been fingered in cancer.

A mutated form of ACVR1, though, has been identified previously in a rare disorder called "Stone Man syndrome," in which the body's muscles and tendons progressively turn to bone.

The work should also shed light on understanding some of the fundamental mechanisms of DIPG, including its progression from an early-stage condition, the Institut Gustave Roussy in Paris, which took part in one of the studies, said in a statement.

In addition, "specific inhibitor drugs" are being developed that may be of potential use against the faulty gene, it added.

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Saudi MERS death toll rises to 66

JEDDAH (AFP) - Saudi health authorities have reported the deaths of another two men from the MERS coronavirus, bringing the death toll from the respiratory disease in the worst hit country to 66.

A 70-year-old national, who died in the Red Sea port city of Jeddah, had also been suffering from chronic illnesses, the health ministry said in a late Sunday statement.

The second victim was a

medic, also in Jeddah, where the ministry reported four new cases of the disease.

The latest deaths brought the total number of cases in Saudi Arabia to 167 people since Middle East Respiratory Syndrome first appeared in the kingdom in September 2012.

Experts are struggling to understand the disease, for which there is no known vaccine.

A study has said the virus has been "extraordinarily

common" in camels for at least 20 years, and may have been passed directly from the animals to humans.

MERS is considered a deadlier but less-transmissible cousin of the SARS virus that erupted in Asia in 2003 and infected 8,273 people, nine percent of whom died.

The World Health Organisation said at the end of March that it has been told of 206 laboratory-confirmed cases of MERS infection, including 86 deaths.

Promise seen with Pfizer breast cancer drug



WASHINGTON (AFP) - An experimental cancer drug made by Pfizer has shown signs of promise at slowing the spread of advanced breast cancer, researchers said. The drug, called palbociclib, when administered with another anti-cancer drug already on the market, letrozole, stopped cancer progression for a median of 20 months. That was double the amount of time seen in a control group of patients who did not receive palbociclib. However, those on the two drugs survived an average of four months longer (37.5 months versus 33.3 months), which was not a statistically significant gain, the researchers noted. More research is ongoing to measure the potential impact of the drug as a treatment for estrogen receptor positive and HER2 negative breast cancer. The findings of the phase II trial, which included 165 women, were released Sunday at the American Association of Cancer Research in San Diego, California.

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Captain America fights way to top of North American box office

LOS ANGELES (AFP) - "Captain America: The Winter Soldier" conquered the North American box office in its debut weekend, becoming the top-earning movie so far this year, industry estimates showed on Sunday.

The superhero saga from Disney's Marvel Studios, starring Chris Evans and Scarlett Johansson, pulled in a hefty \$96.2 million, box office tracker Exhibitor Relations said.

The 3-D, \$170 million sequel to "Captain America: The First Avenger" outearned this year's previous box office winner "The Lego Movie," which in February grossed \$69 million in its first weekend.

Biblical epic "Noah," meanwhile, was the box office runner up in its second weekend, with \$17 million in ticket sales. The action drama reunites Russell Crowe with Jennifer Connelly, his co-star from 2001's "A Beautiful Mind."

In third place, with \$13



million, was teen adventure "Divergent," the dystopian tale of a young woman in a futuristic society, based on the popular young adult novel of the same name.

Religiously themed "God's Not Dead," which tells the story of a college freshman who debates his atheist philosophy professor, climbed one spot to fourth place with \$7.7 million.

In fifth was Wes Anderson's quirky "The Grand Budapest Hotel," which earned \$6.30 million.

It was closely trailed by "Muppets Most Wanted," Kermit and company's latest outing, which raked in \$6.29 million.

The musical comedy caper was ahead of "Mr Peabody and Sherman," based on characters from the 1960s television cartoon "Rocky and Bullwinkle," which earned \$5.3 million.

Car-chase action movie "Need for Speed," which stayed in eighth place for a second consecutive week, taking in \$1.84 million.

"Non-Stop," the Liam Neeson action movie set on a long-haul flight, added another \$1.83 million to its earnings to land in ninth.

Rounding out the top 10 with \$1.8 million was action flick "Sabotage," starring Arnold Schwarzenegger and Sam Worthington.

Hollywood legend Mickey Rooney dies at 93



LOS ANGELES (AFP) - Mickey Rooney, the child actor who danced with Judy Garland, married Ava Gardner and made more than 250 movies, died Sunday at his home in North Hollywood. He was 93. Celebrity website TMZ said Rooney had been ill for some time and died of natural causes. Police in Los Angeles said members of his large family were at his side. Rooney rose to fame alongside Garland as the plucky diminutive lad -- he was 1.6 meters tall -- in the "Andy Hardy" movies of the late 1930s and early 1940s. He also had notable turns as Puck in "A Midsummer Night's Dream" (1935) and in "National Velvet" (1944), opposite Elizabeth Taylor, then 13. More recently the still energetic Rooney appeared in the 2006 comedy "Night at the Museum," and in the 2011 movie "The Muppets." A four-time Oscar nominee, Rooney was awarded an honorary Academy Award in 1982 for lifetime achievement. While professionally successful, Rooney had a rocky personal life. He made and lost millions of dollars, married eight times and legally separated from his last wife, Jan, in June 2012. Along the way he fathered nine children. The son of vaudeville performers who divorced when he was three, Rooney was born Joe Yule, Jr on September 23, 1920 in Brooklyn, New York, and went on the road with his parents' act, in which he appeared as a midget in a tuxedo. Rooney made his big screen debut in the 1926 film "Not to Be Trusted," and from 1927 to 1933 he went on to make about 50 silent comedies playing the comic-strip character Mickey McGuire.

Governments weigh options to brake climate peril

Origin: Germany



BERLIN (AFP) - Government envoys and scientists gathered under the UN banner in Berlin Monday to hammer out a list of options for curbing carbon emissions driving dangerous climate change.

Fresh from issuing its starkest-ever warning about the impacts of global warming on Earth's weather system, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) will meet until Friday to vet the choices meant to inform policymakers.

A draft of the document, seen by AFP, suggests there is a 15-year window for affordable action to safely reach the UN's warming limit of two degrees Celsius (3.6 degrees Fahrenheit) over pre-industrial times.

The report, the product of four years' work by hundreds of experts, aims to provide governments with the latest science on climate change.

It is also designed to inform the struggling effort to forge a worldwide pact by next year to curb greenhouse gases and help poor countries cope with climate impacts.

"Preventing dangerous interference with the climate system entails mitigating climate change," said Ottmar Edenhofer, co-chairman of the panel's Working Group III, which compiled the report.

"On a transparent, scientific basis, our report provides an understanding of the available options to meet this challenge."

A Summary for Policy-

makers will be publicly released in the German capital on Sunday, and the full report -- authored by scientists but not submitted to the IPCC plenary for scrutiny -- will be released shortly afterwards.

A draft of the summary expresses no preferences for how to tame the problem, nor what a safe level of warming should be.

But it says the UN's 2 C target remains feasible if "all countries" act quickly to mitigate, or ease, carbon emissions.

"Delaying mitigation through 2030 will increase the challenges," cautions the document.

In raw terms, global carbon emissions of 49 billion tonnes of CO2 equivalent in 2010 will have to be pegged to 30-50 billion tonnes in 2030.

"To keep within 2 C, greenhouse-gas emissions would have to fall very quickly," French climatologist Herve Le Treut told AFP in the runup to the meeting.

"They would have to fall roughly by a third by 2050."

Most scenarios that meet the 2 C target entail a "tripling to nearly a quadrupling" in the share of energy from renewable and nuclear sources and fossil-fuel plants whose carbon gas emissions are captured and stored, according to the draft.

Other mitigation options include halting the thinning of carbon-capturing forests, and boosting low-emission public transport schemes.

Government representatives and scientists will go through the summary line by line over the next few days.

"In the plenary, all countries can voice their concerns and all of them are heard," said co-chairman Youba Sokona.

"In the end, it is scientific accuracy that decides."

The meeting comes eight days after the second volume of the report, on the likely impacts of climate change, was unveiled in Yokohama, Japan.

It warned that the risk of conflict, hunger, floods and mass displacement increased with every upward creep of the mercury.

Alfa Laval banks on oil, gas with Norwegian acquisition

STOCKHOLM (AFP) - Swedish industrial firm Alfa Laval announced on Monday the acquisition of a Norwegian underwater pump maker Frank Mohn, citing big opportunities in the offshore oil and gas sector.

Alfa Laval, which makes heat exchange systems and fluid separators, said in a statement it would buy the Norwegian company for 13 billion kroner (\$2.17 billion, 1.58 billion euros).

"The acquisition, which strengthens Alfa Laval's fluid handling portfolio by adding a unique pumping technology, will further reinforce Alfa Laval's position as a leading supplier to the marine



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YouTube appeals to Turkey's Constitutional Court over ban

ANKARA (AFP) - YouTube has appealed to Turkey's Constitutional Court to lift a ban the government slapped on the video-sharing service after audio of a top-level security meeting was posted on the site.

The appeal asks the court to "immediately" lift the ban on the site, a source familiar with the case told AFP Monday on condition of anonymity.

The government ordered YouTube blocked on March 27 after an audio recording appeared on it, allegedly of top-level security talks on Syria.

A court in the capital Ankara on Friday lifted the government decision, saying

a blanket ban violated human rights and instead limiting the restriction to 15 videos.

But the court later reversed itself, saying the block would remain in place until the audio recordings of the offending security meeting was removed from the website.

The ban on YouTube was among a wider crackdown on social media ahead of March 30th local elections by the government of Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan, who has vowed to "wipe out" Twitter.

The government blocked Twitter on March 20, but the Constitutional Court lifted the ban on Thursday.

and offshore oil and gas markets," the company said.

It added that global demand for oil is expected to rise by 27 percent between 2012 and 2035.

The Norwegian company - based in Bergen with 1,200 employees -- had 3.4 billion

kroner in sales in 2013, according to the statement, making it an eighth of the size of Alfa Laval.

Its main marine product, a submerged cargo pumping system sold under the brand Framo, helps to maximise the use of tankers allowing quicker turnaround times.





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Holcim, Lafarge create global concrete giant



PARIS : AFP picture shows a bucket grab outside a plant of French cement company Lafarge on April 7, 2014 in Paris. Swiss cement group Holcim and French rival Lafarge are merging to create the biggest global concrete group worth 40.0 billion euros, with an eye to booming construction in emerging markets, the new group LafargeHolcim announced yesterday. The deal, a major event in the global construction industry described in a joint statement as "a merger of equals", will be based on the offer of one Holcim share for one Lafarge share. The two groups together have a stock market value of 40 billion euros (\$55 billion), Holcim chairman Rolf Soiron told a press conference.

UN: Global renewable energy investments slumped 14% in 2013

PARIS (AFP) - Global investments in renewable energy slumped 14 percent last year, with China pouring more money into the sector than Europe for the first time on record, the UN said yesterday.

Investments in renewables apart from hydroelectricity dipped to \$214.4 billion in 2013, down \$35.1 billion from the previous year and 23 percent below the record set in 2011, according to a report from the UN Environment Program (UNEP).

The fall was down to "political uncertainty in several markets," meaning the lack of clarity over government

support for the sector, and the falling cost of solar systems, said the report.

"While some may point to the fact that overall investment in renewables fell in 2013, the drop masks the many positive signals of a dynamic market that is fast evolving and maturing," Achim Steiner, Executive Director of UNEP, said in a statement.

The figures come as a panel of UN climate change experts issued its starkest-ever warning about the perils of a ravaged climate system for future generations.

"The impacts of climate change will leave no part of the world untouched and unaffected," chairman of the UN's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change Ramesh Pachauri said yesterday.

In Europe, which has been a global leader in supporting the development of renewable energy, investment plunged 44 percent to \$48 billion (35 billion euros) last year, UNEP said.

That compares to a 6 percent fall in China, to \$56 billion, and a reduction of a

tenth in the United States, to \$36 billion.

After nine years of growth, last year was the first time investments in renewables fell in emerging economies, the report found. Still, the news wasn't all bad for the renewable energy sector.

Overall, its share of world electricity generation rose to 8.5 percent, up from 7.8 percent in 2012. Excluding hydroelectricity, renewables accounted for 43.6 percent of newly installed generating capacity in 2013.

Solar energy still has the strongest backing from investors, even though the average price of installing a solar panel has dropped by 60 percent.

Renewable energy companies also got more backing from private investors, with equity-raising doubling to a record \$11 billion over the year, the UN said.

"Foundations for future growth in the renewable energy market fell into place in 2013," said Michael Liebreich, chairman of the Advisory Board for Bloomberg New Energy Finance, which collaborated in the study.

Daily Exchange Rates				
Current as of: 04/07/2014				
Currency Code	Buying rate banknotes	Buying Cheques	Selling Rate	
U.S.A.	USD	1.77	1.78	1.80
Dutch Antilles	ANG	98.00	100.00	100.20
Canada	CAD	1.60	1.62	1.64
Britain	GBP	2.89	2.94	3.00
Switzerland	CHF	200.19	200.91	201.71
Netherlands	EUR	242.20	244.41	246.87
Sweden	SEK	26.25	26.97	27.77
Denmark	DKK	31.78	32.50	33.30
Norway	NOK	28.69	29.41	30.21
Japan	JPY	170.99	172.55	174.28
(per 10,000)				
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Oil price 'fair' despite geopolitical factors



KUWAIT CITY : Kuwaiti Oil Minister Ali al-Omar answers journalists' questions during the Gulf Petroleum Forum (GPF) on April 7, 2014 in Kuwait city. The two-day-forum gathers members of the petroleum industry in Kuwait and the GCC countries, as well as with some of the key decision and policy-makers in the sector. Al-Omar said that current oil prices are "fair" despite strong geopolitical factors impacting the region. "We, as exporters and importers, wish to see stability in production and prices," he said, voicing hope that prices would remain "fair" as "they are now". The Kuwaiti minister said that it is not necessary that "high prices are good for producers and low prices are good for consumers".

(AFP PHOTO)

YESTERDAY'S Crossword Answer

H	S	T	D	U	M	P	O	K	A	Y
A	T	A	I	S	E	E	N	I	C	E
H	A	L	F	N	O	T	E	E	A	T
A	N	K	L	E	E	L	B	A		
			A	R	K		A	L	O	N
A	T	M	S	E	T	C	H	V	I	A
N	O	O	K	E	A	U		P	I	L
N	F	L		F	L	O	E	I	D	E
A	U	D	I	O			D	A	N	
			T	R	I	P	S	E	M	I
G	O	R	E		C	A	M	I	S	O
P	R	I	M		E	L	I	A	S	S
A	R	M	S		S	E	A	N	S	A



NEW YORK: AFP photo shows silver coins with the Bitcoin logo on them, displayed at a Bitcoin conference on at the Javits Center April 7, 2014 in New York City. Topics included market places to trade bitcoin, mining hardware to harvest bitcoins and digital wallets to store bitcoins. Bitcoin is one of the most popular of over one hundred digital currencies that have recently come into popularity. Bitcoin will one day be subject to global treaties and central bank interventions, predicts Jeremy Allaire, one of the virtual currencies' biggest backers.

COMICS



CROSSWORD

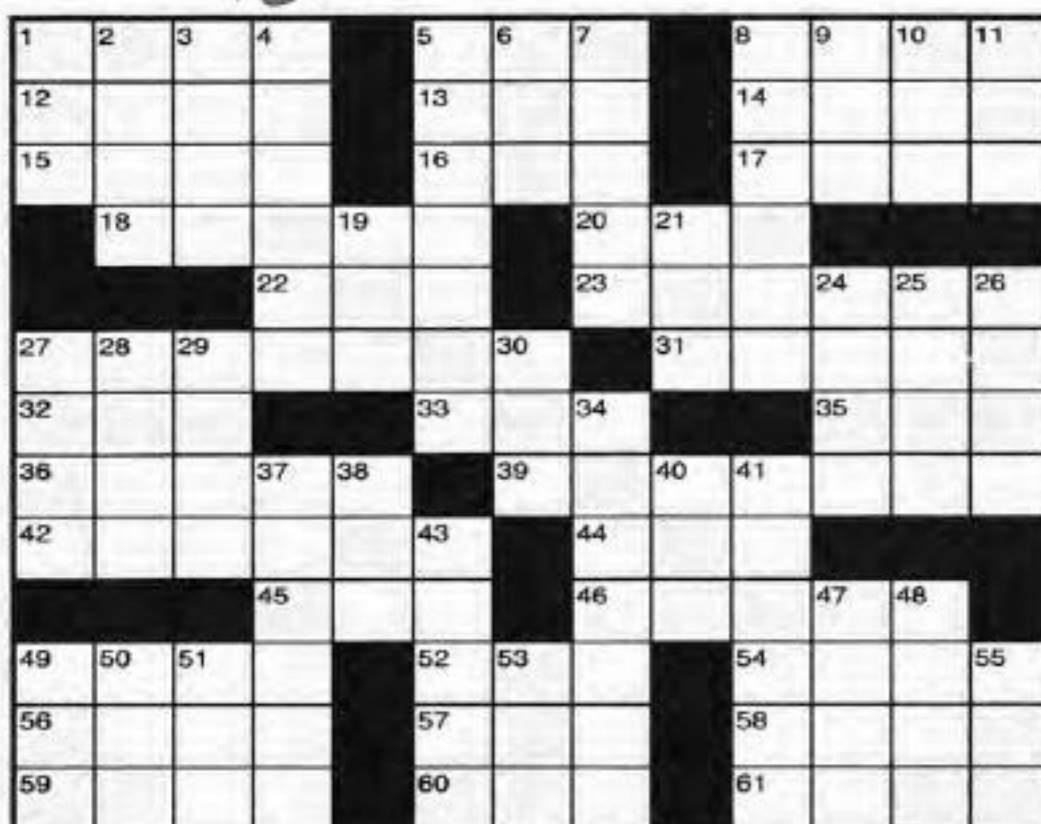


CROSSWORD

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ACROSS

1. Precious stone
5. Middle (abbr.)
8. "___ boy!" (2 wds.)
12. Humdinger
13. Comic Costello
14. Temper
15. Pull
16. Very long period
17. Puppy's feet
18. "___ Gay"
20. Student's concern (abbr.)
22. Lamont, to Sanford
23. Window washer's bane
27. Opposed to
31. Performer's platform
32. Buff
33. Slippery as an ___
35. Regret
36. Mountain feature
39. Final part of a race (2 wds.)
42. Risks getting a ticket
44. Infant's sound
45. Pester
46. Mr. Fudd



49. Sermon subject
52. Raised railroads
54. Workmen
56. Whitman, e.g.
57. Letters on a marker
58. Skipper's direction
59. "The ___ Griffith Show"
60. Short snooze
61. Danson and Mack

DOWN

1. ___ Faithful
2. Undiluted
3. TV's Alda
4. Bela of "Dracula"
5. Wash
6. "Never ___ Late"
7. Ladder's steps
8. Divulge
9. Burnt ___ crisp (2 wds.)
10. Female pig
11. Want ___
19. Chaney of films
21. Liquid measures (abbr.)
24. Nobility title
25. Barcelona beverage
26. Withhold
27. Circle sections
28. Guzzle
29. He loved an Irish Rose
30. ___ Aviv
34. Fastens figure skates (2 wds.)
37. Plucky
38. HST's preceder
40. Fifth note
41. Alley howler
43. Coiled yarn
47. A Gardner
48. Surgeon Walter
49. Mineral spring
50. Charged atom
51. Author Buntline
53. Mauna ___
55. Director Craven

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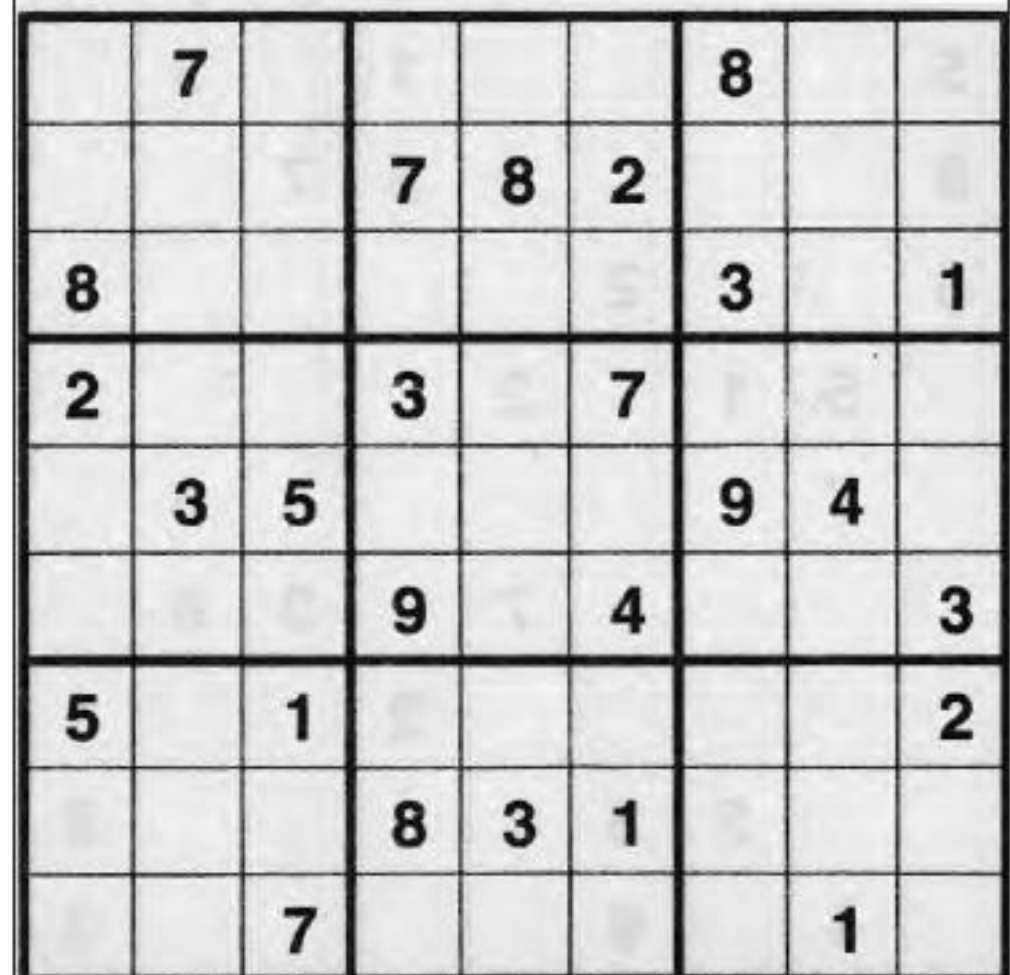
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Sudoku



SOLUTION

8	1	9	5	4	2	7	6	3
6	9	2	1	6	8	9	2	7
2	6	7	6	2	9	1	8	5
6	9	2	7	5	8	8	1	2
2	7	6	8	2	1	9	6	9
5	8	1	2	9	6	8	7	2
1	2	6	9	6	7	2	5	9
4	6	9	2	8	2	6	9	1
9	2	8	6	1	5	4	2	8

Complete the grid so that every row and every column contains the numbers 1 through 9
A number is Never repeated in a row or column.
In addition every rectangle must contain the numbers 1 through 9

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5 Burgers Aruba: Now your best breakfast bargain!



Delicious Breakfast

--A favorite stop for a great burger for lunch or dinner has just expanded their hours and menu to offer some of the best breakfast bargains to be found in Palm Beach. Owners Aaron and Rosie Walisever are living their dream: a home on para-

dise while welcoming all and sundry to their proud undertaking, 5 Burgers Aruba. The couple's fanatical dedication to giving their customers what they really want has resulted in a unique menu from an internationally known franchise with a "5", which now includes breakfast.

"You never get a second chance to make a first impression," believes Aaron. Upon entering 5 Burgers Aruba in The Village Mall in Palm Beach, one is struck by utterly spotless surroundings and a smiling, friendly, attentive service crew. Of course, the main item on the menu is burgers-the way they were meant to be, thick and juicy, made fresh daily and 100% pure beef, the kind that made the hamburger a traditional American treat.

However, beginning at 8am, patrons can now order 2

eggs any style (omelets with 3 fillings are \$7.99) and toast for a price of only \$4.99 or All You Can Eat Pancakes for \$6.99! A new plate called the "Home Run" comes with 2 eggs, bacon or sausage, 2 pancakes, toast & home fries - for only \$9.99! Best of all - unlimited coffee or tea - that is, refillable and never ending is only \$.79! Breakfast is served from 8am until noon. Famous for their fries made from fresh potatoes, Aaron has been working for months on devising the most irresistible home fries recipe, chunky and tender with skins still on; after much testing and tasting, he got the thumbs up from his harshest critic, Rosie, so this is another treat you have to try.

A glance at their burger menu will certainly tempt you to return for lunch or dinner, to sample their famous specialty items such as the Gouda, Farmer's or Man Burger (almost 12 ounces of choice

beef), and a Western Burger with Aaron's secret-recipe crispy onion rings. All of these can be personalized with an incredible array of toppings, (mushrooms, jala-peño peppers, bacon, cheese, lettuce, tomato...whatever, the list goes on) at absolutely no extra cost.



5 Burger portions are ENORMOUS! Aaron suggests that even their small serving of fries is enough to be shared by two. He was very amused to watch a famous French chef demonstrating the best way to

make fried potatoes on a gourmet cooking show and could only comment "He stole my recipe!"

Try them the English way-with vinegar, and you'll wonder how you ever ate fries without it. This same 5-star chef also swears by Gouda as the best topping for the ideal gourmet cheeseburger.

5 Burgers is now open early until 10-ish Sunday-Thursday; and until 3am on Friday & Saturdays.

Delivery is available to most Hotels and most beaches! Enjoy a great lunch without ever leaving the beach by calling 586-3904. However, we suggest you stop by and enjoy their authentic,

heartfelt hospitality; it is not unusual for either owner to sit and chat, sharing their knowledge of the island while making sure patrons are happy with their meal.

NASCAR: Earnhardt Jr. out of Texas race after fiery wreck

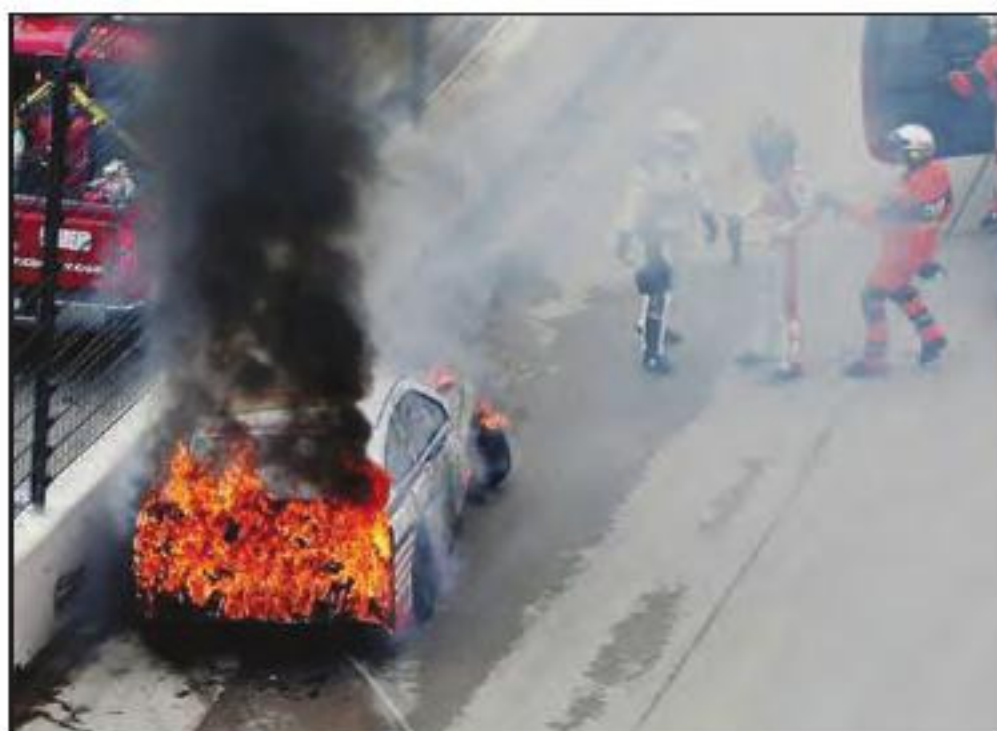
TEXAS -After being postponed due to weather Sunday, the Duck Commander 500 at Texas Motor Speedway was green for only a few laps Monday before Dale Earnhardt Jr. crashed his car into the wall during Lap 12, causing it to catch fire.

Earnhardt lost a tire and ripped up his front end as he veered onto the infield grass, sending him into the outside wall.

Junior said it was his mistake by not seeing the grass.

Despite the wreck doing quite a number on his car, Earnhardt was able to get away uninjured.

The accident guaranteed a 43rd-place finish for Earn-



hardt. He hadn't finished last in the field since the 2007 fall race at Phoenix, a span of 222 races. The new rules in the Chase for the Sprint Cup

championship puts increased emphasis on wins, but Earnhardt already has four top-three finishes this season, including a win at Daytona.

Briefs:



NEW YORK - Members of the Yankees "Core Four," from left, former Yankees catcher Jorge Posada, reliever Mariano Rivera, New York Yankees shortstop Derek Jeter, and former Yankees starting pitcher Andy Pettitte pose together after Rivera and Pettitte threw out the ceremonial first pitch to Jeter and Posada before a baseball game against the Baltimore Orioles, at Yankee Stadium in New York yesterday. The Yankees won 4-2.

Football: Mourinho tells Chelsea to come out smiling

LONDON (AFP) - Chelsea manager Jose Mourinho on Monday urged his players to "enjoy the risk" as they seek to overturn a 3-1 deficit in their Champions League quarter-final against Paris Saint-Germain. The teams resume hostilities at Stamford Bridge on Tuesday, when Chelsea will bid to become only the third team to successfully claw back a 3-1 disadvantage in the post-1992 Champions League era. Chelsea pulled off the feat two years ago, overcoming Napoli 4-1 after a 3-1 first-leg defeat, while last season Mourinho came close to an even greater comeback with Real Madrid, who won the second leg of their semi-final against Borussia Dortmund 2-0 after a 4-1 loss in the away leg. While Mourinho played down comparisons with the Dortmund tie, he declared that the balance of the quarter-final means that the pressure will all be on PSG. PSG have lost by two goals only once in their last 110 matches, so the statistics are not in Chelsea's favour, but the London club could be boosted by the return to fitness of Samuel Eto'o.

Distraught Pistorius apologises for killing girlfriend

PRETORIA (AFP) - A tearful Oscar Pistorius apologised Monday to Reeva Steenkamp's family, telling the court he had "terrible nightmares" since killing his girlfriend and often woke up smelling blood.

Sobbing and with his jaw trembling as he took the witness stand in his defence, Pistorius said he did not intend to kill his 29-year-old lover.

The Paralympic gold medallist is accused of premeditated murder, but claims he shot the model through a locked toilet door believing she was an intruder.

"I want to take this opportunity to apologise to Mr and Mrs Steenkamp," he said, at times barely audible as he sobbed.

Pistorius said he was "trying to protect Reeva" on Valentine's Day last year. "I can promise that when she went to bed that night she felt loved."

"There isn't a moment, or hasn't been a moment since this tragedy happened that I haven't thought about your family."

"I can't imagine the pain and sorrow and the emptiness that I've caused you and your family."

In the tribunal Steenkamp's mother June, flanked by other relatives, stared at him stony-faced during the apology.

She has sat through weeks of gruesome evidence, including brutal images of her dead daughter.

The athlete was speaking publicly for the first time about the events surrounding Steenkamp's death.

Since that fateful night, "I've had terrible nightmares," he said, adding: "I wake up at night smelling blood."

He also said he has been on anti-depressants since the shooting.

Pistorius told the court that on one occasion after waking in the middle of the night he crawled into a cupboard because he was so scared.

Monday's session seemed just as harrowing for the sprinter.

The court was forced to adjourn for the day ahead of schedule after defence lawyer Barry Roux said his witness was exhausted by a lack of sleep and the day's ordeal.

"Well he does look exhausted, he sounds exhausted," said Judge Thokozile Masipa, granting the defence an adjournment until Tuesday.

"One would rather have him in a better state of mind when he testifies."

After five weeks of prosecution testimony, Monday was the first day of Pistorius's defence.

The trial is slated to run to at least mid-May.



FORT WORTH -Joey Logano won the Duck Commander 500 at Texas Motor Speedway with a last-lap pass of Jeff Gordon. Logano, who dominated the second half of the race, was cruising to a victory when a final caution flag flew with a lap and a half remaining to set up a green-white-checked finish. Logano took four tires on his No. 22 Ford and emerged in third place behind Gordon and Brian Vickers. He swept past Gordon entering the first turn of the last circuit.



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Basketball: Mourning, Richmond voted into Hall of Fame

SPRINGFIELD (AFP) - Former NBA stars Alonzo Mourning and Mitch Richmond were among five inductees announced Monday for enshrinement in the Basketball Hall of Fame.

Mourning and Richmond will join the game's other legends in ceremonies at the sporting shrine on August 8 at Springfield, Massachusetts.

Joining them will be former US college coaches Gary Williams and Nolan Richardson and Immaculata University's 1970s women's US national championship squads.

Five other 2014 inductees



Alonzo Mourning

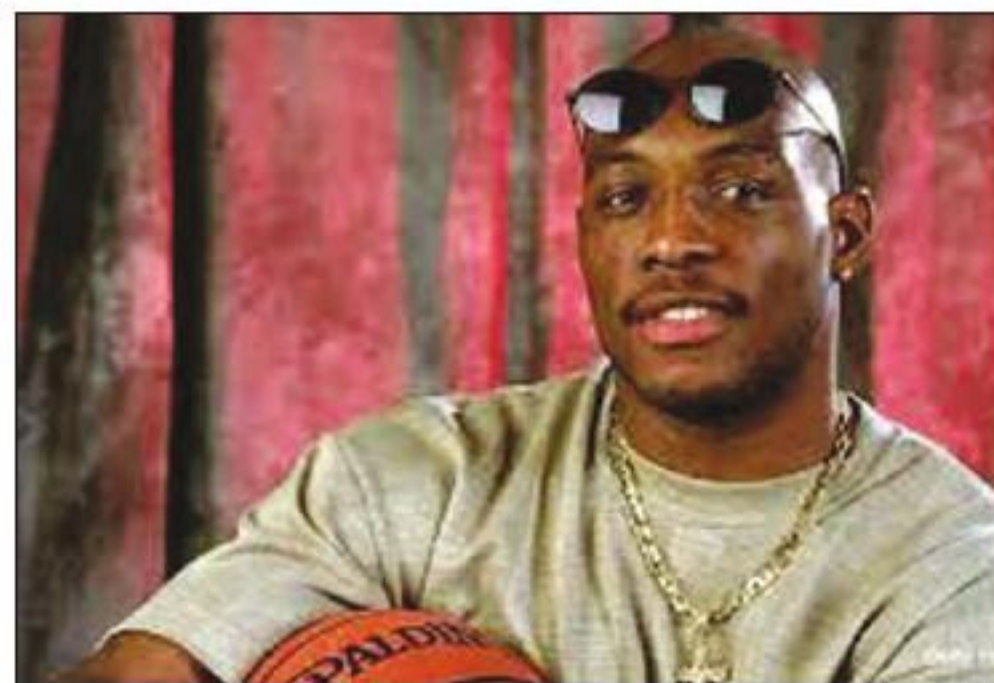
from special committees were announced in February, including former NBA commissioner David Stern, re-

tired NBA coach Bob Leonard and former players Nat Clifton, Guy Rodgers and Sarunas Marciulionis.

"Each inductee has made great strides in the sport and serves as an inspiration to many," Hall of Fame president John Doleva said.

Finalists needed support from 18 of 24 honors committee members for induction.

Mourning was a two-time



Mitch Richmond

NBA Defensive Player of the Year and a seven-time NBA All-Star who won an NBA title with Miami in 2006. The former Georgetown University star twice led the NBA in blocked shots in a career spanning from 1993-2008, a run that included a comeback after a 2003 kidney transplant.

Richmond, a six-time NBA All-Star, helped the 1996 US Olympic team cap-

ture gold in Atlanta and was a member of the 2002 NBA champion Los Angeles Lakers.

Williams coached the University of Maryland from 1990-2011, guiding the Terrapins to the US national men's crown in 2002 while Richardson guided the University of Arkansas to the 1994 national crown. Immaculata went 60-2 with three national titles in a row.

Japan's Darvish wins season debut



ST. PETERSBURG (AFP) - Japan's Yu Darvish won his season debut, allowing seven hits over seven innings as the Texas Rangers beat the Tampa Bay Rays 3-0 on Sunday. Darvish finished with six strikeouts, one walk and managed to pitch out of a couple of jams in the later innings to keep the contest scoreless. Darvish began the Major League Baseball season on the injured list for the Rangers who averted a three-game sweep with the win. Elvis Andrus broke the 0-0 tie with a two-out, two-run homer in the eighth inning. Alex Cobb pitched well in the start for Tampa Bay, holding Texas to three singles with a walk and six strikeouts over seven innings.

NBA: Durant scores 38 to pass Jordan

PHOENIX (AFP) - Kevin Durant scored 38 points to pass Michael Jordan with his 41st straight game of 25-plus, but it wasn't enough to help Oklahoma City beat Phoenix on Sunday. Goran Dragic led a half dozen Suns players in double figures with 26 points as the Phoenix rallied past the Thunder 122-115 to move into sole possession of eighth place in the Western Conference standings. Durant now has at least 25 points in 41 consecutive games to surpass the legendary Jordan, who had 40 back in the 1986-87 season. Durant's streak is now the third longest in NBA history. Durant last failed to score 25 or more points on January 5 against Boston. Durant also had 11 rebounds. Heading into Sunday's contest the league's leading scorer was averaging 32.1 points a game. Durant has won the scoring title in four of the last five seasons.





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Meet Aruba's swimmers to compete in 2014 CARIFTA

ORANJESTAD - Aruba's team will be representing Aruba very honorably in the swimming competition of the annual 2014 CARIFTA to take place from the 22nd to 25th of April.

The Aruba Swimming Association (AZB) is very proud to present the swimmers in the feminine 11-12 years category.

They are: Gwennandy Kock, 11 years. Gwennandy will swim in the 50m Back - 200m IM - 50m Breast - 100m Free - 50m Free-100m Breast events.

The two Laurence sisters will be making their international debut.

They are: Dyshanty Laurence of 12 years who will swim in the 100m Back, while her sister, Dytaysha



Laurence of 12 years will swim in the 100M Fly - 50M Fly - 50M Breast - 100M Breast events.

Zoe Thode is another athlete of 11 years who will

swim in the 50M Back - 200M Free - 100M Back events.

Then there is Elisabeth Timmer of 12 years who will swim in the 100M Fly - 200M

Free - 400M Free - 50M Free - 200M Back events. Aruba can be sure that these athletes are ready to confront their competitors from the other islands.

They are counting on the support of the Aruban community at the Roly Bislick Olympic Pool in Savaneta on April 22 to 25th.

Football: World Cup dream over for injured Rodriguez

LONDON (AFP) - Southampton striker Jay Rodriguez's hopes of playing for England at this year's World Cup finals were dashed Monday when it was announced he would be out for at least six months with a knee injury.

The 24-year-old forward was one of several Saints players in the running for a place in Roy Hodgson's 23-man squad for Brazil after scoring 17 goals so far this term.

But Rodriguez, who made his England debut in a friendly against Chile in November, saw his season come to a shuddering halt when he landed awkwardly during Saturday's 4-1 defeat by Manchester City and was carried off on a stretcher at Eastlands.

It looked a severe injury and a Southampton statement on Monday confirmed the news the player had been dreading.

Hodgson was in the stands at Eastlands to see Rodriguez's agonising injury at first-hand, with the Saints man the second player he has lost to an anterior cruciate ligament injury following Arsenal forward Theo Walcott earlier this season.

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